

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the Claims as set forth below:

1. (currently amended) A storage system, comprising: two or more pouches, joined sequentially pouch-lip to pouch-lip by a flexible coupling portion. which means a span of flexible material extending from a rear pouch-lip of a first pouch to the front pouch-lip of the next pouch, in a series of pouches, with hinges along the connections at the pouch-lips, as well as a hinging portion in the span of the flexible coupling portion material between the pouch lips, wherein each coupling portion flexes to permit manipulation of the joined set of pouches, said manipulation being selected from the group consisting of closing, paging, tipping, fan, accordion, parallel, push down, pull up and reversible.
2. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the pouches are rectilinear and planar.
3. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the storage system is made of transparent material.
4. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the seams of the pouches are created by heat welding the side and bottom margins of the pouch material.
5. (original) The storage system of claim 4, wherein the storage system is made of a continuous, uniform sheet of flexible material.
6. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the storage system is made of a continuous, uniform sheet of flexible material, and the pouches are rectilinear and planar.
7. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the storage system is made of a continuous, uniform sheet of flexible, transparent material, and the pouches are rectilinear and planar.
8. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the ultimate pouch has affixed a means for hanging the storage system.

9. (original) The storage system of claim 8, wherein the means for hanging the storage system is a perforated flap of the pouch material forming the rear wall of the ultimate pouch and extending above the ultimate pouch-lip.
10. (original) The storage system of claim 8, wherein the means for hanging the storage system is a loop affixed to the rear wall of the ultimate pouch or optionally to a flap of the pouch material forming the rear wall of the ultimate pouch and extending above the ultimate pouch-lip.
11. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the length of the flexible coupling portion joining the penultimate pouch to the ultimate pouch is elongated to permit the elongated coupling portion to wrap around the coupling portion side of the compacted storage system and when so wrapped to permit the ultimate pouch to abut the face of the first pouch in the storage system, wherein the ultimate pouch is sized to have a longer length of pouch or flap affixed to the pouch to permit the longer ultimate length when so wrapped to enclose the bottom of the compacted storage system, and wherein a first fastening means is disposed on or near the end of the longer length to engage a corresponding fastening means positioned on the rear wall of the penultimate pouch, thereby securing the compacted storage system in a compacted state when the first fastening means is engaged with the corresponding fastening means on the rear wall of the ultimate pouch.
12. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the coupling portion is creased latitudinally and approximately mid-way between the pouch-lips it joins.
13. (withdrawn) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the manipulation is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of closing, paging, tipping/fan, accordion, parallel, push down, reverse parallel, and pull up modes.
14. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein a divider is inserted in a pouch.
15. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein additional seams are made in a pouch and join the side and/or bottom seams to form internal compartments in the pouch.
16. (currently amended) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more pouches are sized for planar records selected from the group ~~comprising~~

consisting of film, transparencies, documents, music discs, video discs, memory modules, and patient records.

17. (currently ammended) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more pouch mouths formed by the pouch lips of a given pouch are sealed and an insert is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of liquid, gel, powder, and a substance that degrades when exposed to the atmosphere.
18. (previously presented) The storage system of claim 1, wherein an exterior pocket is fabricated on one or more of the pouches.
19. (currently ammended) **The storage system of claim 1.** A storage system comprising two or more pouches, joined sequentially pouch lip to pouch lip by a flexible coupling portion, wherein each coupling portion flexes to permit manipulation of the joined set of pouches, and the system is adapted for use in retail dispensers.
20. (currently ammended) **The storage system of claim 1.** A storage system comprising two or more pouches, joined sequentially pouch lip to pouch lip by a flexible coupling portion, wherein each coupling portion flexes to permit manipulation of the joined set of pouches and the system is adapted to dispense medications selected from the group comprising consisting of pills, ointments, nutritional supplements, and IV fluids.
21. (currently ammended) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the pouch mouths are sealed by seals selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of permanent seals and resealable seals.
22. (currently ammended) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the pouch mouths are sealed by resealable seals and the an insert is selected from the group comprising consisting of liquid, gel, powder, and a substance that degrades when exposed to the atmosphere.
23. (previously presented) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more pouches have a tear-off corner.
24. (previously presented) The storage system of claim 1, wherein a divider is embedded or laminated in a pouch.

25. (currently ammended) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more pouches are constructed with an exterior pocket selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of sealed pocket or open-mouthed pocket.
26. (previously presented) The storage system of claim 25, wherein an interior abutting wall shared by the exterior pocket and the pouch can be ruptured more easily than the exterior walls of the exterior pocket and of the pouch.
27. (currently ammended) The storage system of claim 26, wherein mixing of the contents of the exterior pocket and the contents of the pouch is enabled by rupture of the interior abutting wall.
28. (previously presented) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more pouches are constructed of transparent material.
29. (previously presented) The storage system of claim 28, wherein the transparent material is suitable for trans-illumination and viewing of the pouch contents.
30. (previously presented) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more pouches are labeled.
31. (currently ammended) The storage system of claim 30, wherein the labels are selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of preprinted, writable, erasable, color-coded, bar-coded, Braille, extrusion, depression, permanent, and removable.
32. (previously presented) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more pouches are constructed to conform to the size and shape of planar inserts to be stored in the pouches.
33. (previously presented) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more pouches are constructed to conform to the size and shape of non-planar inserts to be stored in the pouches.
34. (currently ammended) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the first and last pouch in a series of pouches are joined by a user sequentially pouch-lip to pouch-lip by a flexible coupling portion, wherein each coupling portion flexes to permit manipulation of the joined set of pouches, and wherein the joined series of pouches forms an endless loop.
35. (currently ammended) The storage system of claim 1 or 34, wherein the pouches are disposed on a transport mechanism by a user to enable manual or automated

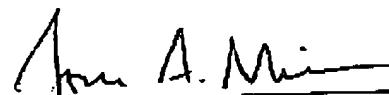
handling of inserts, which handling is selected from the group comprising consisting of storage, identification, selection, retrieval, and dispensing.

36. (previously presented) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the last pouch in the storage system is adapted to be a wrap-around cover of the closed storage system.
37. (currently amended) The storage system of claim 1, wherein two or more pouches have perforations in, or loops affixed to, margins of the two or more pouches to permit handling of part or all of the storage system, which handling is selected from the group comprising consisting of selecting of pouches, binding of pouches, and hanging of pouches.
38. (currently amended) The storage system of claim 1, wherein made two or more storage systems are serially fastened end-to-end by the user to form a longer chain of chained pouches or an endless loop of chained pouches, and wherein the fastening means is selected from the group comprising consisting of fasteners disposed through perforations in the coupling portions of the fastened pouches, fasteners disposed through perforations in portions of the fastened pouches other than the coupling portion, heat-welding of coupling portions of the fastened pouches in a manner that creates a coupling portion between fastened pouches essentially identical to the coupling portions of the other pouches in the fastened chains of pouches, fasteners disposed through loops affixed to the coupling portions of the fastened pouches, and fasteners disposed through loops affixed to portions of the fastened pouches other than the coupling portion.
39. (withdrawn) The storage system of claim 1, wherein prior to assembly the material side forming the exterior of the pouches is printed with text or other visual information so that after assembly the chain is paged through sequentially.

Conclusion

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant if there are any questions relating to the subject application.

Respectfully submitted.



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